

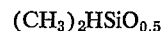
8. A method for preparing silicone sponge rubber which comprises mixing:

- (a) from 80 to 99 parts by weight of a diorganopolysiloxane gum, consisting of a first siloxy unit represented by the formula: (R_2SiO) wherein R is a methyl or phenyl radical, and a second siloxy unit represented by the formula: $(CH_2=CHR'SiO)$ wherein R' is a methyl or phenyl radical and whose molecular chains are terminated by a monovalent radical selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, methyl, ethyl, trifluoropropyl, phenyl and vinyl group, having a viscosity of at least 1,000,000 cs. at 25° C., and containing from 0.025 to 0.25 mole percent of vinyl group containing siloxy units in its molecule;
- (b) from 1 to 20 parts by weight of diorganopolysiloxane, consisting of a first siloxy unit represented by the formula: (R_2SiO) wherein R is a methyl or phenyl radical, and a second siloxy unit represented by the formula: $(CH_2=CHR'SiO)$ wherein R' is a methyl or phenyl radical and whose molecular chains are terminated by a monovalent radical selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, phenyl and vinyl group, having a viscosity of at least 10 cs. at 25° C., and containing at least 10 times as many mole percent of vinyl group containing siloxy units in its molecule as is contained in one molecule of the diorganopolysiloxane gum;
- (c) organohydrogen polysiloxane in an amount such that its Si—H linkages are from 50 to 200 mole percent of the total amount of vinyl group contained in the diorganopolysiloxane gum and the diorganopolysiloxane, the organohydrogen polysiloxane containing at least three Si—H linkages in its molecule;
- (d) from 20 to 100 parts by weight of a reinforcing silica filler having a surface area of at least 150 m.²/g.;
- (e) from 1 to 10 parts by weight of a blowing agent; and
- (f) a catalytic amount of a platinum compound to form a mixture, and curing the mixture at from 100° to 400° C. from 5 minutes to 5 hours to produce a silicone sponge rubber.

9. The method claimed in claim 8 further including the step of subjecting the produced silicone sponge rubber to a post curing at from 150° C. to 250° C. for from 1 to 24 hours.

10. The method claimed in claim 8 in which a mixture of the diorganopolysiloxane gum and the diorganopolysiloxane has at 25° C. a viscosity of from 1,000,000 to 50,000,000 cs.

11. The method claimed in claim 8 in which the organohydrogen polysiloxane is selected from the group consisting of methylhydrogen polysiloxanes whose molecular chains are terminated by a trialkylsilyl group, tetrasiloxanes represented by the formula $Si[OSi(CH_3)_2H]_4$, siloxane copolymers consisting of SiO_2 unit and



unit, and copolymers of methylhydrogen siloxane and dialkyl siloxane.

12. The method claimed in claim 8 in which the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azobisisobutyronitrile, dinitrosopentamethylenetetramine, N,N'-dimethyldinitrosoterephthalamide and diaminobenzene.

13. The method claimed in claim 8 in which the platinum compound is present in an amount such that the weight of platinum contained in it is from 1 to 100 p.p.m. of the total weight of the diorganopolysiloxane gum and the diorganopolysiloxane.

14. The method claimed in claim 8 in which the platinum compound is a soluble platinum compound selected from the group consisting of chloroplatinic acid, a complex of chloroplatinic acid and at least one of the following: ethylene, propylene, butadiene and cyclohexane, and a complex of chloroplatinic acid and alkylamine.

15. The method claimed in claim 8 wherein said mixture further includes a dispersing agent selected from the group consisting of low molecular siloxane esters and silanols.

References Cited

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